

ing the fullest and freest exercise of popular suffrage," nor are they "conducting a benevolent despotism." I fully agree with you that there is no such thing as a benevolent despotism, but under present social conditions we must all, whether we will it or not, be either a slave or a slave owner, or a free man who has purchased his freedom. We are all born into either the estate of that of slave owner or a slave, and to rid ourselves of this condition at once, through legislation, is impossible. It may come that way in time, but for the present we must purchase our way out either by buying land and making it free or by freeing the land we own already, thereby freeing ourselves or the men we own through owning the land.

The people at Fairhope who are freeing land as fast as it is in their power to do so, are freeing it in the only way that it is possible to free it under present laws. They are not a municipality, County or State. The elected officers of the Colony are not municipal officers in any sense of that term nor are they in any sense forcing their views or policy upon any one except in the same sense that you force your views upon others when you publish them to the world. And to say that "we are walking on very thin ice in reposing on Fairhope's reputation or in permitting it to be used so extensively as a demonstration of the Single Tax," is no stronger criticism of the Colony's plan and work than it would be for one to say that Mr. George, being a human being liable to mistakes, has made no stronger call to righteousness than other good-intentioned men have made.

No one who knows the men who conceived the Fairhope idea and put it into operation can doubt their honest, sincere belief in the Single Tax philosophy, nor can he surpass their zeal in the great cause. To criticise their plan of work is to criticise every Single Taxer's work from one end of the world to the other, for we must all work in this cause along the lines which to us individually or collectively seem best. If we do not we are mere imitators, camp followers, not workers. I don't suppose that you or any one else ever hoped to attain the heights to which we so ardently aspire at one leap. We can reach that summit only after a laborious climb.

CALLING FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT RENTERS MASS MEETING AND WHICH FIFTY-THREE OF THE TENANTS SIGNED.

We also believe that exact detailed financial statements should be made of all moneys received and expended from all sources and for whatever purpose by this corporation, also that we are entitled to know the exact status of all transactions

relating to or with individuals that affect this corporation or association and which may have caused the expenditure of moneys or may have or is liable to create an indebtedness or obligation in the future.

We therefore protest to you against paying the assessments as made by you for the year 1905, and before taking further steps to protect our interests against what we believe to be the unjust and unwarranted raise in rentals you have made, we respectfully ask that these rentals be reduced to a more equitable basis that would represent the actual value of these lands, without any speculative value attached thereto.

THE REAL CRIMINAL.

(For the REVIEW.)

In a letter to a friend commenting on a newspaper article of his entitled "Impressions of a Jurymen," the present writer expressed her Single Tax principles as follows:

I like your standing up for the doing of a juror's duty. The laws are too easy in letting people off from it. It should not be possible for any able-bodied man to get out of it, except in the case of fatal illness of his family, or something absolutely hazardous to his fortunes.

I cannot agree so well with your view of "the blackened soul" of the convict. I think the principal difference between society out of prison and in is simply and mostly that of respectability and disrespectability. There is an immense amount of respectable crime in the world, and our "happy homes" at Christmas festivals are not overhappy. They are burdened with many cares and sorrows, which are largely an effect of respectable criminality. Our economic conditions and our prisons are breeders of disreputable crimes, and it is we, ourselves, who are the real criminals, in letting such conditions last. The economic system of to-day murders men's characters, steals the fruit of their labors, drives them to immorality and drunkenness, and then our penal system takes up the matter and still further deadens the soul of the victim, not of the aggressor, which would be bad enough. If there is any "blackened soul" and "seared conscience" it is ours, that we calmly take what little comfort can be got out of the disorder, and call ourselves innocent.

But the real fact is, in my mind, that there is no "blackened soul." The race has been growing from savage toward enlightened, and has not yet reached much more than a half-civilized state. We are all more ignorant than guilty, just as the disreputable criminal is; and we and he will get rid of our ignorance at the same time. When we, the respectable sinners, learn the way out of our sins, we shall find the disreputable following close upon our heels.

JANE DEARBORN MILLS.